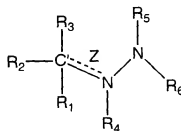


What is claimed is:

1. A method of increasing erythropoietin in a mammalian subject in need of such treatment comprising administering to said subject a safe and effective amount of a compound having the structure:



wherein

- (a) R₁ is selected from the group consisting of aryl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl, and heterocycloalkyl;
 - (b) R₂ is hydrogen when Z is a single covalent bond or nil when Z is a double covalent bond;
 - (c) R₃ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;
 - (d) R₄ is hydrogen when Z is a single covalent bond or nil when Z is a double covalent bond;
 - (e) R₅ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;
 - (f) R₆ is selected from the group consisting of aryl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl, and heterocycloalkyl;
- or an optical isomer, diastereomer or enantiomer, or pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, or biohydrolyzable amide, ester, or imide thereof.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein:

- (a) R₁ is selected from aryl or heteroaryl
- (b) R₆ is selected from aryl or heteroaryl

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of 2-pyridyl, 2-methylphenyl, 2-hydroxyphenyl, 2,4-dihydroxyphenyl, 2-hydroxy-5-hydroxy-methyl-3-methyl-4-pyridyl, 3-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl, 6-methyl-2-pyridyl, 2-hydroxy-naphthalene-1-yl, and 3,4-dihydroxyphenyl.

4. The method of Claim 2, wherein R₆ is selected from the group consisting of 2-pyridyl, 2-benzothiazole, 2-quinoline, 2-(5,7-bis-trifluoromethyl-[1,8]-naphthyridyl), 3-chloro-6-pyridazine, 3-chloro-6-trifluoromethyl-2-pyridyl, 3-chloro-6-trifluoromethyl-2-pyridyl, 4,6-dimethyl-2-pyrimidine, 4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl, 9H-1,3,4,9-tetraaza-2-fluorene, phenyl, 2-(3-chloro-pyrazine), 6-(3-chloro-pyridazine), 1-[(5,6-dimethyl-thieno[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-yl)], 2-(4,6-di-pyrrolidin-1-yl-[1,3,5]triazinyl), 3-(8-hydroxy-isoquinoline)

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of *N*-Pyridin-2-yl-*N'*-(1-pyridin-2-yl-ethylidene)hydrazine, *N*-methyl-*N*-pyridin-2-yl-*N'*-pyridin-2-ylmethylene-hydrazine, *N*-Pyridin-2-yl-*N'*-pyridin-2-ylmethyl-hydrazine, *N*-Methyl-*N*-pyridin-2-yl-*N'*-(1-pyridin-2-yl-ethylidene)-hydrazine, *N*-Benzothiazol-2-yl-*N'*-pyridin-2-ylmethylene-hydrazine, *N*-Pyridin-2-ylmethylene-*N'*-quinolin-2-yl-hydrazine, *N*-(5,7-Bis-trifluoromethyl-[1,8]naphthyridin-2-yl)-*N'*-pyridin-2-ylmethylene-hydrazine, *N*-(6-Chloro-pyridazin-3-yl)-*N'*-pyridin-2-ylmethylene-hydrazine, *N*-(3-Chloro-5-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-yl)-*N'*-pyridin-2-ylmethylene-hydrazine, *N*-(3-Chloro-5-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-yl)-*N*-methyl-*N'*-pyridin-2-ylmethylene-hydrazine, *N*-(4,6-Dimethyl-pyrimidin-2-yl)-*N'*-(1-pyridin-2-yl-ethylidien)-hydrazine, *N*-(1-Pyridin-2-yl-ethylidene)-*N'*-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-hydrazine, *N*-Pyridin-2-ylmethylene-*N'*-(9H-1,3,4,9-tetraaza-fluoren-2-yl)-hydrazine, *N*-(1-Pyridin-2-yl-ethylidene)-*N'*-(9H-1,3,4,9-tetraaza-fluoren-2-yl)-hydrazine, *N*-Phenyl-*N'*-pyridin-2-ylmethylene-hydrazine, *N*-(2-Methyl-benzylidene)-*N'*-phenyl-hydrazine, 2-(Phenyl-hydrazonomethyl)-phenol, 2-[(3-Chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-hydrazonomethyl]-phenol, 2-Pyridyl-(2-hydroxy-benzylidene)-hydrazide, 4-[(3-Chloro-pyrazin-2-yl)-hydrazonomethyl]-benzene-1,3-diol, 5-Hydroxymethyl-2-methyl-4-(pyridin-2-yl-hydrazonomethyl)-3-ol, 2-Methoxy-6-(pyridin-2-yl-hydrazonomethyl)-phenol, 3-(Pyridin-2-yl-hydrazonomethyl)-isoquinolin-8-ol, *N*-(6-Methyl-pyridin-2-ylmethylene)-*N'*-pyridin-2-yl-hydrazine, *N*-(6-Chloro-pyridazin-3-yl)-*N'*-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-ylmethylene)-hydrazine, 1-[(5,6-Dimethyl-thieno[2,3-*d*]pyrimidine-4-yl)-methyl]-naphthalen-2-ol, and 4-[(4,6-Di-pyrrolidin-1-yl-[1,3,5]triazin-2-yl)-hydrazonomethyl]-benzene-1,2-diol.